INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/60 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 **G06F** Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, IBM-TDB, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1-21 Χ US 2003/014293 A1 (SHETTY RAVINDRA K ET AL) 16 January 2003 (2003-01-16) Abstract. figures 1-4,6 page 1, lefthand column, paragraph 3-4 page 3, lefthand column, paragraph 31 righthand column, paragraph 35 χ EP 0 400 789 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 1-21 5 December 1990 (1990-12-05) abstract page 3, line 48 - page 6, line 2 page 11, line 25 - page 16, line 33 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are fisted in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular retevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 13 May 2004 25/05/2004 Name and malling address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.

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